

The respectful and submissive helper - Ephesians 5:22-24

- I will preface all I will say with the reminder of what I have previously taught about the man, and resist the temptation to qualify things repeatedly.

I. A BASIC DEFINITION OF SUBMISSION

- Gk. hypotasso = to submit to the directions of someone in authority position. The form of this word indicates a purposeful choice to put oneself under another in authority.
- Submission is often thought of as a dirty word in our day, not only in the family, but in about every other setting.

A. Forced Submission (i.e. subjection)

- 1.) Demons to the disciples Lk10:17
- 2.) Creation to the curse Rom8:20
- 3.) All things to Christ 1Cor15:27 Phil3:21 Heb2:5, 8 1Pet3:22

B. Willing Submission

- 1.) Jesus to his parents (both) Lk2:51 *Most likeness to children*
 - 2.) Jesus Christ to the Father - 1Cor15:28 (1Cor11:3 Jn14:28,31)
 - 3.) All Christians to God Heb12:9 Jm4:7 (to the law of God Rom8:7 and righteousness of God Rom10:3).
 - 4.) Christians to civil authorities Rom13:1, 5 Tit3:1 1Pet2:13
 - 5.) Christians to church authorities 1Cor16:16 Heb13:17 (Gk. hupeiko)
 - 6.) Christians to one another Eph5:21
 - 7.) Christian servants to their masters Titus 2:9 1Pet2:18 (now applied to employee and employer)
 - 8.) The younger to the elder 1Pet5:5
 - 9.) Women in the church 1Cor14:34
 - 10.) A wife to her husband - Eph5:22-24; Col3:18 Tit2:5 1Pet3:1, 5
- Submission is not a dirty word, but part of God's created order for all. The duty of submission, in whatever realm, is to be done in joyful trust in the Lord. *For the Christian it is a way of life.*
 - Wives, one question to ask yourself is whether, when you think of this subject, "Is my submission under compulsion, or willing?" Do I come to this subject with a heart of desire to do the Lord's will? *Does this indicate a problem w/ subm. in general?*
 - Gen3:16 (w/4:7) seems to indicate that this inward rebellion was a consequence of the fall. The word means "violent craving", not of sexuality, but of domination. Not only did she rebel in subjection to God, but in doing so also in relation to her husband.

This sentence amounts only to that command, Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; but the entrance of sin has made that duty a punishment, which otherwise it would not have been. If man had not sinned, he would always have ruled with wisdom and love; and, if the woman had not sinned, she would always have obeyed with humility and meekness; and then the dominion would have been no grievance: but our own sin and folly make our yoke heavy. If Eve had not eaten forbidden fruit herself, and tempted her husband to eat it, she would never have complained of her subjection; therefore it ought never to be complained of, though harsh; but sin must be complained of, that made it so. Those wives who not only despise and disobey their husbands, but domineer over them, do not consider that they not only violate a divine law, but thwart a divine sentence. (Matthew Henry)

- The Breath like Air of A Culture Which Desires This!

II. THE PRIMARY OBJECT OF SUBMISSION

- It is a submission to one's own husband. This is not a generic statement of all women submitting to all men.
- We have previously seen that this is based on God's order for marriage, with the husband being the leader/head, which includes primary accountability for the condition of the home.
- There are other areas of submission (church and state), but this is in relation to the family. There can be a particular danger when other submission relationships are established (i.e. the workplace). *Conflict of Submission*

III. THE PARTICULAR REALM OF SUBMISSION

- At first appears unlimited scope "in everything." *- true w/ all realms - Church, Home, etc.*
- 1.) Not areas of sin - Acts4:19 5:29. This is true in every relationship of submission above (Ex1:17 Dan3:18 6:10) *w/ civil Auth.*
- 2.) Not within areas outside sphere of responsibility (). Positively, this means everything within his authority and responsibility. *- But otherwise in everything - That is where the Start - Gives Liberty to those Realize Not Responsible (i.e. Church leaders)*

IV. THE NECESSARY ATTITUDE OF SUBMISSION

- Respect (Gk. phobeomai) = common word for fear. Not merely being afraid, but an honor born out of the reality of his authority. Used for the fear/honor of the king (Prov24:21 Rom13:1ff 1Pet2:17).
- This is the duty of the wife, not of the husband to make her.
- The BIG question - "What if he doesn't do what he is supposed to?" What if he sins, fails, etc.? -- next week.